



NCRI Report

Introducing our Historian and Public History Program

This year, we have officially launched public history as a core program of the Northwest Cultural Resources Institute, and many exciting projects are in progress.

For those new to the term, *public history* is the practice of history outside of the traditional world of academia. It seeks to apply academic learning in a way that directly informs and benefits the public. It also uses the public in the recording of history, through such activities as oral history interviews.

A public history site is anywhere history is used to engage the public, and where history informs public programs, talks, exhibits, publications... even archaeological excavations and reconstruction of buildings.

To manage public history activities, Chief Ranger Greg Shine has been appointed as the park's Historian. Greg has an extensive background in history, and has already begun several new programs. Here are some highlights:



Onsite Public History Course

This April, the National Park Service (NPS) is working with Portland State University to offer a hands-on public history course at the site. As an adjunct faculty member in the history department at PSU, Greg will be teaching a course entitled "Historic Site Interpretation". It is a focused immersion into how history is promulgated by one of the leading stewards of our nation's history – the NPS. This is the inaugural program in the Public History Field School that has long been envisioned for the site. After establishing a foundation in applicable NPS

history, policy, and guidelines, this class will emphasize the dynamic aspects of public history by focusing on the professional field of historical interpretation. Students will actively apply knowledge gained through group discussion, directed readings, research, practical exercises, peer review, and class instruction. The class will culminate at the Brigade Encampment event where students will each present 15-minute talks in accordance with NPS professional interpretive standards. To experience the programs first-hand, come visit the site the afternoon of Saturday, June 17! continued on page 3...

Announcements

Dr. Robert Cromwell successfully defended his dissertation this month, graduating from Syracuse University. His paper is titled "*Where Ornament and Function are So Agreeably Combined*": Consumer Choice Studies of English Ceramic Wares at Hudson's Bay Company's Fort Vancouver". Congratulations to Bob!

Library Moves to Fur Store

The library has been moved to the Fur Store in order to offer the books a better environment and increased security. This will also allow staff to hold open hours for use. The new location combines the books with the park's archival documents, maps, and research files, and is now called the Archives and Reference Collection (ARC). A new policy, based on comments last year, will be put in place soon.

Book to be Published on USS *Shark*

Greg Shine is in the midst of writing a book for publication by the Northwest Interpretive Association. It examines the fascinating 1846-7 visit of the schooner USS *Shark* to the Pacific Northwest and Fort Vancouver. He is aiming for a 2007 publication.

Herbarium Collection Cataloged

An herbarium collection, which documents the flora of the park, is now cataloged and available for research thanks to colleagues at North Cascades National Park, **Danielle Gembala**, and volunteer **Richard Reay**.

Archaeology Field School

The 6th annual NPS/Portland State University/Washington State University Vancouver field school begins this June. Investigations in the historic garden area will continue. Remnants of Dr. McLoughlin's garden are expected. This year, there will also be testing in the area of the 1856-1878 Vancouver Arsenal.

A Chinookan Fur Trade Village at Lewis and Clark's Station Camp

Excavations since 2002 at Lewis & Clark's Station Camp, at the former cannery site of McGowan, Washington, at the mouth of the Columbia River, have discovered the remains of a protohistoric Chinook Indian village characterized by abundant fur-trade era goods and well-preserved architectural features associated with at least three plank structures.

The project was funded by the Washington State Historical Society

the traditionally-constructed plank structures provides evidence for variability in mechanisms of adoption of trade items into a Chinook settlement at the earliest period of extended contact with Euro-Americans.

The remains of the plank houses will add to the very small sample of traditional plank structures examined at this early period of contact. Fish, bird, and mammal bones from the site will inform



Burnt planks from a Chinookan dwelling are visible mainly as charcoal stains on the ground, though one section was intact enough for removal after being stabilized in the field by a conservator.

and the final data recovery project was a joint National Park Service/Portland State University project. NCRI staff served as Principal Investigator, Field Director, and crew members.

The Chinookan fur-trade site (identified as the "Middle Village" by the Chinook people) provides a valuable new source of archaeological data on the interaction between Native American groups at the coast and Euro-American traders. The context of fur trade objects within



About 10,000 artifacts were recovered, including this carved stone animal figure believed to be from a pipe.

on the types of food resources eaten by the inhabitants of the Station Camp site. A report on the archaeological project is expected later this year.

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Internship in Public History Program

Another program is our Internship in Public History Program, where students earn credit at their college or university while working on a directed public history project.

These internships can take a number of forms. Opportunities can be roughly divided into two categories: active program development and presentation, called personal services, and behind-the-scenes research, design, and/or writing -- called non-personal services. For more information, please contact Greg Shine at (360) 696-7655 x14 or via email at Greg_Shine@nps.gov.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

The Vancouver National Historic Reserve is a partnership of the National Park Service, the City of Vancouver, the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, and the U.S. Army. It includes Fort Vancouver and its village, Vancouver Barracks and Officer's Row, Pearson Field and Air Museum, portions of the Columbia River waterfront, the Water Resources Education Center, and the McLoughlin House unit in Oregon City, Oregon.

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site & Vancouver National Historic Reserve

612 East Reserve Street
Vancouver, WA 98661

Phone

360 696-7655

Website

www.nps.gov/fova

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Searching for Lewis and Clark

Ever since Louis Caywood first excavated at the site of Fort Clatsop, over 55 years ago, scientists have sought to gain definitive evidence of the Lewis & Clark winter camp of 1805-1806. The recent fire that destroyed the 1955 replica provided a unique opportunity for NCRI staff and National Park Service archaeologists from five national parks to examine its 15 m² area. Previously, researchers had considered this area highly likely to contain intact remnants of the Lewis & Clark fort. The work was conducted in October and November 2005 and including remote sensing (ground-

penetrating radar and magnetic gradiometer surveys). Unlike previous excavations in the vicinity that recovered beads and musket balls, no direct evidence of the Lewis & Clark camp was found during the current work. The results of these investigations, however, build on those of past researchers that stress the importance of the systematic exploration of both natural and cultural formation processes at the site. Importantly, the rich history of human use of the park, revealed in its archaeological remains, contextualizes the Lewis & Clark expedition within the greater history of the Pacific Northwest.

Under the Microscope: Ward Upson

I remember as a kid I used to lie awake at night and pore over old National Geographics that featured articles about archaeological expeditions and ancient cultures: the mystery of the Olmecs, Woolley excavating the royal cemetery of Ur, the sacred cenotes of Chichen Itza, the wonders of Macchu Picchu. Much, much later I took a sabbatical from my teaching job and completed all the course work required for an M.A. in Anthropology at San Francisco State University. Again much later, moving to Vancouver I jumped at the chance to volunteer as a Collections Assistant and first worked doing conservation work on the many iron artifacts in the study collection. More recently, I have worked with each of the summer field schools and did analysis of artifacts and other materials they recovered.

So how can I explain the many years I have been fascinated with things anthropological? It's attempting to understand why and how people behave themselves in a given physical and cultural environment. Here at Fort Vancouver the population was a remarkable mix of different ethnicities, as well as vastly different social classes, if you will. Certainly there was some kind of rigid social structure, not unlike a caste system. I would like to believe that the artifacts and materials we recover and analyze can help to reconstruct how all these diverse people lived and worked together. So, my fellow volunteers and I may have a small part in developing a picture of what life was like under the HBC flag even as we work at such things as the sooty routine of charcoal "analysis"!

Ward has worked as a volunteer in the Cultural Resources division at Fort Vancouver since May 2000. His duties have included artifact analysis and iron object conservation.



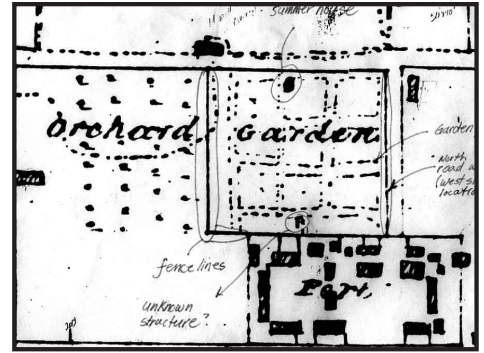
Field School in Review: McLoughlin's Garden

The principal work during the 2005 field school was the excavation of test trenches within the borders of the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) garden. The garden was central to the success of agriculture and arboriculture in the Pacific Northwest as it served as a nursery to produce seedlings, seeds, and cuttings for distribution to other Hudson's Bay Company posts, Native Americans, and settlers in the region. It also provided fresh produce for the "gentlemen" and elite guests of the company and served as a "pleasure garden" for selected visitors and employees.

Unfortunately, while many wrote about the garden, there are no known plans of it or specific descriptions of its layout and associated plantings. Knowledge gained from excavations is expected to assist in the examination of human-landscape interrelationships at Fort Vancouver, including the material significance of the garden landscape, its layout, and the plants that grew in it. The results will support the reconstruction and interpretation of the historical garden area.

This poorly known area of Fort Vancouver has also experienced several occupations post-dating the HBC including use by the U.S. Army for a garden during the 1850s, a spruce cut-up mill during World War I, Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) activities during the Great Depression, and military training and other activities during World War II.

The primary goal of testing the garden was to determine if there are any intact remains associated with it that survived the use of the area by the U.S. Army, as well as to explore these other historical Army activities. One feature is thought to be an HBC well but at this stage only U.S. Army refuse was found within the excavated sample. The results so far suggest that there are intact deposits associated with the HBC garden that may inform on the orientation and content of beds, paths, and other garden attributes. Investigations and analysis will continue this summer.



A detail from Henry Peers' 1844 "Line of Fire" map (top) shows garden paths and a possible structure in the south end. Archaeologists may find evidence of these when excavations continue this summer. During the 2005 season, students discovered remains of a World War II-era roadway and barracks, as well as a previously unrecorded 19th century well.

Historical Fragment

**Letter from Rufus Ingalls to George Gibbs, February 22, 1867
National Archives**

I have carefully read all the accompanying testimony and cannot see that I can give any more evidence to [undecipherable word] point of any considerable importance – Crate's deposition as to the value of the Mills does not amount really to much. It is a matter of opinion with him simply – The only Mill in operation when I arrived there was a very cheap plain and rickety [undecipherable word] – Long before the Company abandoned Vancouver its milling business was a non-paying one – As the different Posts were abandoned, they were worthless to our government, and, I think, to any one. They were not forced to leave Vancouver by Genl. Harney – they elected to do so, because, in fact their day was past for profits or power.

[undecipherable]
Rufus Ingalls

NCRI Director's Letter

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

The NCRI provides students, researchers, and the public an opportunity to explore the fascinating history of the Pacific Northwest through the many-faceted lens of cultural resources. The NCRI is very busy these days, from planning the 6th annual archaeological field school at the Vancouver National Historic Reserve to the development of new courses and partnerships in historical archaeology and public history.

The collections from over 50 years of archaeology continue to surprise the interns, volunteers, and researchers who are busy analyzing, cataloging, and managing them. Staff and volunteers are also busy with the collections from Station Camp and Fort Clatsop.

I am happy to report that the North Coast and Cascades Research Learning Network has given a grant that will assist in the analysis and interpretation of microscopic plant remains (pollen and phytoliths) from John McLoughlin's garden. This will help augment Elaine Dorset's Masters Thesis on the archaeology of the garden and bring a richer level of detailed knowledge regarding the attributes and significance of this impressive 6-8 acre site. The field school this year is funded by private and public partners including the National Park Service cultural resources program, the Vancouver National Historic Reserve Trust, Portland State University, and Washington State University Vancouver. Without their support the NCRI would not be possible.

I am very happy to welcome Greg Shine, M.A., Chief Ranger of Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, to the team. As noted on the front page, Greg is working to expand our program of public history and will be writing a new book on the interesting history of the U.S.S. Shark. Congratulations go to one of our most valuable assets, Robert Cromwell, who just completed his work at Syracuse. Well done, Dr. Cromwell.

Doug Wilson

Current Research

Elaine Dorset

Graduate student at Portland State University. Elaine is writing her thesis on Fort Vancouver's garden, using a combination of historical records and archaeological data. She recently received a grant from the NPS's North Coast Cascades Network in support of her continuing work this year.

Delight Stone

Graduate student at Leicester University. Delight's thesis is "A Critical Review of Gender in Historical Archaeology, Case Study Fort Vancouver". The paper's goal is to demonstrate how gender archaeology has been, is, and can be practiced, through a review of the interpretive dialogue and various research approaches.

Selicity Icefire

Undergraduate at Portland State University. Selicity is analyzing flat glass from our recent field school. She will use the data from her project to write a short research paper on glass manufacture and use in the Pacific Northwest and how the data relates to the excavations.

Meris Mullaley

Meris is developing an exhibit for the Visitor Center on medicine at Fort Vancouver. It will specifically address the responsibilities and practices of the post surgeon, the establishment and use of the hospital, and the local effect of epidemics. Artifacts reflecting these activities will be on display.

Beth Horton

Graduate student at Washington State University. For her dissertation, Beth is analyzing bone from recent excavations. She is examining subsistence activities, reflected through the transport and usage of resources, to provide information on food preferences, cultural interactions, and how individuals may reaffirm their social identities through daily meals.

Dane Bevan

Graduate student at Portland State University. Dane completed a public history publication for his internship, titled *"To a Very Great Extent Independent of Us": HBC Strategies for Indian Relations in the Columbia Department, 1825-1840*". It will be available in the library and on the web.

Material Culture Notes: Glass Beads

Beads have an almost mythical status in descriptions of the fur trade, the omnipresent trade good desired by cultures across the continent. Beads were one of the most popular items distributed by established posts and free traders alike. They were used as adornment mainly by American Indians, French-Canadians, and Métis, people of mixed ancestry. They were worn as simple strings or sewn onto leather or cloth in geometric, floral, or pictorial designs.

Of the beads that found their way into the 19th century fur trade, most were manufactured in Bohemia, an area roughly equivalent to the modern-day Czech Republic and Slovakia. Smaller amounts were made in Italy, especially Venice, and China. In general, there are three different manufacturing techniques for glass beads: drawing, winding, or molding.

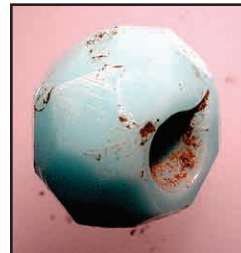
Drawn beads are the most common type here. They were manufactured by stretching molten glass between two pontils, or rods, and then cutting the long, hollow tube into pieces. The resulting beads were either left with angular ends or finished by one of two methods: hot tumbled tube beads were smoothed in a heated revolving barrel filled with sand or ash, while other beads were ground on the outer edges by hand to create facets. Drawn beads are sometimes more than one layer, such as the red-on-white "whiteheart" beads.

Wound beads were manufactured one at a time. A small segment of glass cane was reheated and wrapped around a wire, or mandrel. The glass was then twirled over heat

until the desired shape was formed. Wound beads come in a variety of shapes, reflecting the freeform manufacture, and often have contrasting colors pressed into them. The famous "chevron" beads are of this type.



Molded



Hot tumbled tube with facets



Two-layer hot tumbled tube



Wire wound

Molded, or "pressed" beads were formed by compressing warm glass in a two-part mold. On more expensive ones, the seam marks were polished out. A molding technique often allowed for more complex shapes.

Believe it or not, Fort Vancouver curates almost 150,000 glass beads.

The Hudson's Bay Company imported thousands of beads annually to Fort Vancouver, and many of these found their way into the archaeological record due to spillage or breakage.

In fact, Fort Vancouver's bead collection is so comprehensive that it was used to create a typology, a system of classification for identifying 19th century trade beads in the Pacific Northwest. There are about 150 different types of glass beads identified in the collection, and an example of each has been put into a special type collection.

When beads are analyzed in the laboratory, nine attributes are recorded for each bead. But often it is not the individual beads, but how they are distributed, that is most informative for researchers.

At the site of the Indian Trade Shop, archaeologists found beads lying in the soil arranged in straight lines - indication of where the space between floorboards had been.



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U.S. Department of the Interior

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site
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A partner in the
Vancouver National Historic Reserve

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

This is the official newsletter of the Northwest Cultural Resources Institute. The NCRI is a cooperative partnership dedicated to facilitating research and educational activities relating to archaeology, history, curation, and historic architecture at the Vancouver National Historic Reserve.

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MYSTERY ARTIFACT

The mystery artifact in the last issue was a WHIP HOLDER.

Fort Vancouver archaeologists recently led excavations at Station Camp, a site on the lower Columbia River that was the location of Lewis and Clark's famous vote. The archaeologists discovered remains of a fur trade-era Chinookan village, including a plank house. The artifacts are currently being curated at Fort Vancouver while they are analyzed and the report written. This issue's mystery artifact comes from that site. Two views of the object are shown.

